

84TH CONGRESS 1st Session	}	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	}	REPORT No. 897
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EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE MAINTENANCE
OF TRADITIONAL UNITED STATES POLICY IN OPPOSITION TO
COLONIALISM AND COMMUNIST IMPERIALISM

JUNE 22, 1955.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

Mr. RICHARDS, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, submitted
the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H. Con. Res. 149]

The Committee on Foreign Affairs, to whom was referred the resolution (H. Con. Res. 149) expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States in its international relations should maintain its traditional policy in opposition to colonialism and Communist imperialism, having considered the same, report favorably and unanimously thereon without amendment and recommend that the resolution do pass.

The measure was introduced on May 31, 1955, by Hon. John W. McCormack and was referred to the committee that same day. On June 1 and on June 6, identical resolutions, House Concurrent Resolution 150 and House Concurrent Resolution 153 were introduced by Hon. James G. Fulton and Hon. Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., respectively. The committee considered House Concurrent Resolution 149 on June 21, 1955, and unanimously ordered it reported.

The language of the resolution, supporting the efforts of peoples "to assume an equal station among the free nations of the world" can be compared with the language of our Declaration of Independence "to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and nature's God entitle them."

It is especially fitting that this resolution be adopted at a time when the 10th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations is being celebrated in San Francisco. The perpetuation of the principles of the Declaration of Independence and the principles which the American people have traditionally followed since the birth of our Nation were announced in clear terms by President Eisenhower in his address on June 20 in San Francisco:

The charter assumes:

That every people has the inherent right to the kind of government under which it chooses to live and the right to select in full freedom the individuals who conduct that government.

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2 OPPOSITION TO COLONIALISM AND COMMUNIST IMPERIALISM

Hence the charter declares:

That on every nation in possession of foreign territories, there rests the responsibility to assist the peoples of those areas in the progressive development of free political institutions so that ultimately they can validly choose for themselves their permanent political status.

Our long history as a republic manifests a self-imposed compulsion to practice the same principles.

There follows the report of the Department of State to the chairman of the committee, Hon. James P. Richards, on this resolution:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, June 20, 1955.

HON. JAMES P. RICHARDS,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives.*

DEAR MR. RICHARDS: Reference is made to your request of June 18, 1955, in your conversation with the Secretary, for the Department's comments on House Concurrent Resolution 149, expressing the sense of the Congress concerning colonialism in all its forms.

In general, an expression of views by the Congress along the lines of those contained in the proposed concurrent resolution would reaffirm a policy which this Government has long followed. The United States is administering its foreign policies and programs and exercising its influence in the United Nations and other international organizations in accordance with the principles set out therein.

The United States views were reflected in the Pacific Charter wherein we joined with the other parties to the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty in proclaiming that we would "earnestly strive by every peaceful means to promote self-government and to secure the independence of all countries whose peoples desire it and are able to undertake its responsibilities." The proclamation also stated that the signatories were "prepared to continue taking effective practical measures to insure conditions favorable to the orderly achievement of the foregoing purposes in accordance with their constitutional procedures." It is clear that this carefully framed statement took into account the warning of the Secretary when he pointed out that "international communism uses 'nationalism' as a slogan for gaining control and then imposes its own brutal form of imperialism which is the negation of nationalism."

As Members of the Congress are, of course, aware, the question of timing in the transition from colonialism to self-government or independence is of the utmost importance and delicacy. At a time when international communism is trying to take over all weak governments, we have to be sure that the transition from colonialism to full self-government or independence takes place under such circumstances that truly free institutions will be maintained. It is, moreover, clear that Communist colonialism represents a far greater threat to individual and group rights and liberties than traditional colonialism. Also, while Communist colonialism has been aggressive and has expanded the area under its control, in the brief period since World War II many former colonial areas of the traditional type have attained self-government or independence, and in other areas the orderly transition to self-government or independence is well advanced.

In view of the shortness of time in getting this report to you, this letter has not been cleared with the Bureau of the Budget.

Sincerely yours,

THRUSTON B. MORTON,
Assistant Secretary.

While it is true that the executive branch of our Government has followed the policy expressed in the resolution, it is highly proper for the Congress to proclaim the truths and principles which the resolution contains. Just as the Holy Scriptures are read and reread and the eternal truths which they expound are constantly proclaimed, so it is essential for a united America to proclaim to the world the fundamental principles upon which our Government, Nation, and people rest.

This is a traditionally American resolution and deserves the full support of the House.

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